

(Rs. crores)

| | | 1993-94 | | 1994-95 | | 1995-96 | |
|-----|--|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual |
| (a) | Conservation including stowing | 38.20 | 37.23 | 40.00 | 39.99 | 45.00 | 37.55 |
| (b) | Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas | 27.00 | 27.00 | 40.59 | 40.59 | 55.00 | 55.00 |

The coal companies undertake stowing, protective works and construction of roads and subsequently approach the Coal Conservation and Development Advisory Committee (CCDA) constituted in terms of provisions of Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Rules, 1975 for subsidy against these works from the funds collected through excise duty collected under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974. The proposals of coal companies are examined from the point of view of eligibility of subsidy on a case to case basis within the limits of the budget.

The existing guidelines provide for reimbursement upto 75 per cent of the cost of protective works, 35 per cent of cost of sand stowing and 50 per cent of the cost of construction of roads, while the balance cost has to be borne by the concerned coal company and in some cases of road construction by the concerned State Government as well.

(c) For the year 1996-97 the following budget provision alongwith anticipated expenditure is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

| | Budget Provision | Anticipated Expenditure |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Conservation including stowing | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| 2. Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas | 50.00 | 50.00 |

Coloured Cotton

3215. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coloured cotton in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of coloured cotton exported during the above period and the countries to which it has been exported;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that growers of coloured cotton are not getting remunerative price for their crop; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the coloured cotton growers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Brown cotton known as Cocanadaned is grown in Kakinada tract of Andhra Pradesh in small areas. Since 1995, naturally coloured cotton belonging to American cotton developed with the assistance of Cotton Corporation of India Ltd is grown in parts of Madhya Pradesh. 14.50 qtls. of brown coloured cotton (seed cotton) was produced during 1995-96.

(b) Coloured cotton lint has not been exported from the country.

(c) Farmers got about 72 per cent to 80 per cent more price for coloured cotton compared to white linted cotton.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Sericulture

3216. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to provide assistance to Assam for development of sericulture in the State is under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the assistance likely to be provided during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of Assam has forwarded proposals for the development of sericulture in the State. The Central Silk Board is preparing a project for integrated and sustained development of sericulture in the North-Eastern States including Assam for implementation during the IXth Five Year Plan period. The above proposals of the Government of Assam will also be considered by the Board while preparing the project report.

Decline in Production of Tea in Assam

3217. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tea gardens in Assam have illegally occupied a large amount of the Government land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;